

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2006 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW  
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m. on November 29, 2006. The meeting was held in the Congressional Room at DoubleTree-Washington, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. Michael A. Apicella, presided throughout the meeting except for the proposal with which he was in conflict.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael A. Apicella, M.D.  
Ronald E. Blanton, M.D.  
Kasturi Haldar, Ph.D.  
Paul F. Lehmann, Ph.D.  
Thomas Russo, M.D.

Peter F. Barnes, M.D.  
Melanie T. Cushion, Ph.D.  
James R. Johnson, M.D.  
Thomas F. Patterson, M.D., F.A.C.P.

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT**

None

**AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)**

Suzanne F. Bradley, M.D., VA Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI  
Caroline E. Cameron, Ph.D., University of Victoria, Victoria, BC (Conference call)  
John E. Gustafson, Ph.D., New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM  
Douglas F. Lake, Ph.D., Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Robert Munson, Ph.D., Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
Pyong Woo Park, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
Michael Rybak, Pharm.D., Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI  
(Conference call)

**VACO STAFF PRESENT**

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development  
Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Infectious-B,  
Research and Development  
Harlande Lanspery, Program Assistant, Research and Development  
Nilima Karnik, Program Assistant, Research and Development

**OBSERVER(S)**

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Subcommittee were read and approved.

Dr. Stern welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range. Dr. Stern also discussed the importance of substantive Summary Statements.

The date of May 31, 2007, was established for the Spring 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 30 Merit Review Programs and 1 Merit Review Entry Program.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee.

**SUBMITTED:**

Susan A. Stern  
(signature)

SUSAN STERN, PH.D.  
Portfolio Manager  
Mar. 1 2007  
(Date)

**APPROVED:**

Michael A. Apicella  
(signature)

MICHAEL A. APICELLA, M.D.  
Chairperson  
3/7/07  
(Date)